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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production and Marketing Administration
Food Distribution Programs Branch
Washington 25, D. C.

MONTHLY FOOD SUPPLY REPORT - AUGUST 1946

The August survey of the adequacy of food supplies indicated that supplies of some of the major food commodities continued to be insufficient to meet demands generally throughout the country. However, butter and meat supplies showed considerable improvement, as compared to the situation last month. During early July a large proportion of the reporting areas indicated that these items were scarce, but by early August the situation had reversed itself and nearly as large a proportion of the reporting areas indicated adequate supplies of these commodities. The list of commodities which were reported generally adequate during early August is as follows: canned orange and grapefruit juice, canned beans, canned peas, frozen snap beans, frozen spinach, fresh oranges, Irish potatoes, cabbage, shell eggs, chicken, butter, beef steaks, roasts, and hamburger, veal steaks, chops, and roasts, lamb steaks, chops, and roasts, cold cuts and fresh and frozen fish. Potatoes were reported surplus in a significant proportion of the areas in all regions, and cabbage was reported surplus in the Northeast and Midwest regions. Reports for other commodities included in the survey reflect that supplies were inadequate to meet demands in one or more of the five regions.

The 202 reports summarized in this analysis are based on information gathered by field representatives of the Production and Marketing Administration during the first week of August at meetings of food advisory committees and by direct communication with the food trades. The number of area reports received from each of the five regions is as follows: Northeast, 23; Midwest, 62; South, 46; Southwest, 40; and West, 31.

The analysis, as in the past, is divided into three parts. Part I is a narrative summary of the month's developments. Part II sets forth percentage figures for each region, dividing commodities into three groups: generally scarce, generally adequate, and unbalanced. It must be remembered that these percentages are based on the number of areas reporting the situation, rather than on quantitative measures. Furthermore, each area report is given equal weight in computing regional and U.S. totals. Thus, shortage situations or differences among regions may be exaggerated. Part III shows the food availability in 29 selected localities.

The three categories of adequacy of supplies used in this survey are defined as follows:

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|-----------|---|
| Scarce: | Supply less than three-quarters of current demand. |
| Adequate: | Supply more than three-quarters of current demand but not sufficiently in excess of such demand to cause excessive inventories. |
| Surplus: | Able to obtain supplies in quantities greater than demand. Inventories heavy and rapidly becoming excessive in view of current level of demand. |

PART I - ADEQUACY OF FOOD SUPPLIES

Fruits and Vegetables:

Canned Fruits: Showing little change from the previous month, the supplies of canned fruits continued scarce in relation to the demand in practically all reporting areas. Canned pineapple was scarce in all reporting areas, canned pears and fruit cocktail in 99 per cent, and canned peaches in 96 per cent of all reporting areas.

Canned Juices: Supplies of grapefruit juice, orange juice and orange-grapefruit blended juices were sufficient to meet the demand in 99, 97, and 97 per cent, respectively, of the reporting areas. Tomato juice was reported scarce in 48 per cent and pineapple juice in 99 per cent of the areas during the current month.

Canned Vegetables: The supply situation for canned vegetables has improved slightly since early July. For the country as a whole, canned green beans were adequate or surplus in 84 per cent of all reporting areas in August. However, supplies were adequate in only 58 per cent of the areas in the West. Canned peas were generally adequate in most areas; 82 per cent of the areas reported them as generally adequate or surplus for early August as compared to 72 per cent a month ago. Canned corn was reported scarce in 64 per cent of the areas for the country as a whole, and canned tomatoes in 92 per cent.

Frozen Foods: Supplies of frozen fruits continued to be inadequate to meet the demand in all regions during early August. However, some improvement was reported for each of the three major kinds. Frozen apricots were scarce in 50 per cent of the reporting areas as compared to 64 per cent during early July. The corresponding percentages were 49 and 64 for frozen peaches and 74 and 83 for frozen strawberries. There was some improvement in the supply-demand situation for frozen vegetables from the past month. Frozen snap beans, peas, cut corn, and spinach were generally adequate throughout all regions. Frozen lima beans were scarce in 72 per cent of the reporting areas.

Dried Foods: For the country as a whole, the supply of dried prunes was meeting the demand in 77 per cent of the reporting areas. Raisin supplies were meeting the demand in only 43 per cent of the areas reporting. The acute shortage of dry beans continued with 84 per cent of the areas reporting them scarce for the current period.

Fresh Foods: Surplus supplies of Irish potatoes were reported in 24 per cent of the areas during early August, the same as a month ago. Significant surpluses were reported in all regions with the proportion of areas reporting surplus ranging from 16 per cent in the Midwest to 32 per cent in the Southwest. Fresh cabbage was reported surplus in 12 per cent of the areas for the country as a whole, with significant surpluses in the Northeast and Midwest. Fresh oranges were adequate or surplus in 95 per cent of the reporting areas.

Meats: The supply situation for meats was considerably better in August than it had been a month earlier. More than 90 per cent of the reporting areas indicated adequate or surplus supplies of the more desirable cuts of beef, veal, lamb, and cold cuts. Only cured pork and canned meats remained scarce in a majority of the areas.

Fish: The supplies of fresh and frozen fish were meeting demands in 85 per cent of the areas throughout the country. However, canned tuna, canned salmon, and canned sardines were reported scarce in 96, 98, and 99 per cent, respectively, of the reporting areas.

Dairy Products: Butter supplies were sufficient to meet demand in 94 per cent of reporting areas. Last month, only 25 per cent of the areas reported an adequate supply. Cheese (all types) was scarce in only 31 per cent of the areas, as compared to 91 per cent a month ago. Evaporated milk was adequate in 69 and surplus in 1 per cent of the areas.

Fats and Oils: Fats and oils continued to be extremely scarce during early August. Margarine was scarce in 93 per cent and lard in 86 per cent of the reporting areas, while shortening and salad oils were scarce in all reporting areas. Except for lard, for which there was slight improvement, supplies were insufficient to meet demand in about the same proportion of areas as in the previous month.

Soap: Bar laundry soap, flakes and granules, and washing powder continued to be scarce in practically all reporting areas.

Sugar: For the country as a whole, the supply of sugar was meeting ration demands in only 55 per cent of the reporting areas as compared to 82 per cent in July. There were sharp increases in the proportion of areas reporting scarcity in all regions except the West, where supply was meeting the demand in 94 per cent of the areas reporting.

Other Items: The supply of shell eggs and chicken continued to meet general demand as 92 and 95 per cent respectively of the areas reported them as adequate or surplus.

Rice was reported scarce in 96 per cent of the areas for the current period compared to 94 per cent a month earlier. For the country as a whole, corn meal was scarce in 75 per cent of the reporting areas.

Wheat Flour and bread were reported as adequate in 66 and 85 per cent respectively of the areas. This represents a material improvement from July when 86 and 76 per cent, respectively, of the areas reported them as scarce.

FOODS THAT ARE GENERALLY SCARCE (A) -- reported scarce by at least one-third of the areas in all five regions. National figures are based on the actual number of areas reporting, and are not averages of the regional percentages.

Percent Reporting Scarce SuppliesFruits and Vegetables

	<u>U.S.</u>	<u>N. E.</u>	<u>M. W.</u>	<u>S.</u>	<u>S. W.</u>	<u>W.</u>
Canned Fruit Cocktail	99	96	100	100	100	97
Canned Peaches	96	96	100	87	98	97
Canned Pears	99	100	100	100	100	97
Canned Pineapple	100	100	100	100	100	100
Canned Pineapple Juice	99	96	100	100	98	100
Canned Corn	64	70	53	61	80	68
Canned Tomatoes	92	100	90	94	88	94
Canned Tomato Juice	48	39	57	41	45	48
Frozen Peaches	49	65	44	51	51	43
Frozen Strawberries	74	70	79	72	74	69
Frozen Lima Beans	72	70	66	84	83	53
Dried Raisins	57	70	40	49	80	64
Dried Beans	84	96	82	80	82	84

Meats, Fish, Dairy ProductsFats and Oils

Pork: Ham & Shoulder, Cured	72	78	65	67	79	83
Salted Fat Cuts	59	57	50	59	74	60
Bacon	80	65	75	89	84	84
Canned meats	53	61	43	57	67	48
Canned Salmon	98	100	100	98	100	90
Canned Tuna	96	100	98	94	95	90
Canned Sardines	99	100	100	100	98	94
Margarine	93	91	90	98	100	87
Lard	86	96	79	76	98	94
Shortening	100	100	100	100	100	100
Salad Oils	100	100	100	100	100	100

Miscellaneous

Soap: Bar Laundry	100	100	100	100	100	100
Flakes & Granules	99	100	100	98	98	100
Washing Powder	98	100	100	100	98	97
Rice	96	100	97	96	100	84
Corn Meal	75	100	64	55	89	84

FOODS THAT ARE GENERALLY ADEQUATE (B)--reported in adequate or surplus supply by more than one-third of the areas in all five regions. Percentages starred include 10 per cent or more "surplus" reports; those double-starred include 25 per cent or more. National figures are based on the actual number of areas reporting and are not averages of the regional percentages.

Percent Reporting Adequate or Surplus Supplies

	<u>U. S.</u>	<u>N. E.</u>	<u>M. W.</u>	<u>S.</u>	<u>S. W.</u>	<u>W.</u>
<u>Fruits and Vegetables</u>						
Canned Grapefruit Juice	99	100	100	100	92	100
" Orange Juice	97	100	100	100	88	97
" Orange-Grapefruit Juice	97	100	100	100	85	97
" Peas	82	87	97	73	70	71
Frozen Snow Beans	78	74	90	77	69	70
" Spinach	38	91	93	84	77	90
Frozen Oranges	95	83	98	89	98	100
Irish Potatoes	99*	100**	100*	98**	100**	100*
Frozen Cabbage	99*	96*	100*	93	100	100

Meats, Fish, Dairy and
Poultry Products

Beef Steaks	96	100	95	96*	97	93
Beef Roasts	95	96	95	96*	97	93
Hamburger	96	100	93	96*	97	100
Veal: Steaks, Chops & Roasts	91	91	86	96*	95*	90
Lamb: " " "	90	87	86	93	92	90
Cold cuts: Bologna, Salami, etc.	93	100	88	96	97*	87
Fish, Fresh and Frozen	85	87	86	87	82	83
Eggs	94*	96	98*	91*	88*	94
Shell Eggs	92	91	98	89	95	84
Chicken	95	100	100	94	93	87

Miscellaneous:

Bread	85	71	93	88	88*	74
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FOODS THAT ARE UNBALANCED (U) -- reported adequate or surplus in more than two-thirds of the areas in one to four regions, scarce in other regions. National figures are based on the actual number of areas reporting, and are not averages of the regional percentages.

Percent Reporting Adequate or Surplus Supplies

	<u>U.S.</u>	<u>N.E.</u>	<u>M.W.</u>	<u>S.</u>	<u>S.W.</u>	<u>W.</u>
<u>Fruits and Vegetables</u>						
Frozen Apricots	50	35	54	44	43	69
Frozen Cut Corn	74	70	95	58	57	80
Canned Beans, Green & Wax	84	100	82	93	88	58
Frozen Peas	73	70	83	63	69	77
Dried Prunes	77	65	85	67	80	81
<u>Meats, Dairy Products</u>						
Pork: Loin, Chops, & Roasts	71	61	35	72	58	67
" Ham & Shoulder, Fresh	63	48	70	70	53	63
Cheeses (all types)	69	73	64	87	68	48
Evaporated Milk	70	70	97	52	50	68
<u>Miscellaneous</u>						
Sugar	55	20	36	9	47	94
Wheat Flour	66	60	69	95	68	26

PART I - LOCAL SITUATIONS

Supplies are indicated as follows: A — Scarce; B — Adequate; C — Surplus; N — No answer. Letters in parenthesis after commodities refer to groups shown in Part II: (A) — Generally Scarce; (B) Generally Adequate; (U) — Unbalanced.

[illegible]

Product	Balti- :more, :Md.	Bos- :ton, :Mass.	Buf- :falo; :N.Y.	Hart- :ford; :Conn.	New :York; :N.Y.	Phil- :adel- :Pa.	Port- :land; :Me.	Chi- :cago; :Ill.	Cleve- :land; :Ohio	De- :troit; :Mich.	Wau- :kee; :Wis.	St. :Louis; :Mo.	at- :lan- :ta, :Ga.	Char- :les- :ton, :S.C.
Beef: Steak (B)	C	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Roasts (B)	C	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Hamburger (B)	C	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Veal: Steaks, Chops, & Roasts (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Lamb: Steaks, Chops & Roasts (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Pork: Chops, Loin & Roasts (U)	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Ham & Shoulder, Fresh (U)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Ham & Shoulder, Cured (A)	A	A	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Salted Fat Cuts (A)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Bacon (A)	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Cold Cuts, Bologna, etc. (B)	C	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Canned Meats (A)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Fish, Fresh and Frozen (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Canned: Salmon (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Tuna (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Sardines (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Butter (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Cheese (all types) (U)	N	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Evaporated Milk (U)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Margarine (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Lard (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Shortening (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Salad Oils (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Bar Laundry Soap (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Flakes & Granules (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Washing Powder (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Sugar (U)	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Eggs, Shell (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Chicken (B)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Rice (A)	N	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Corn Meal (A)	N	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Wheat Flour (U)	N	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Bread (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B

Product	Jack- son- ville, Fla.	Louis- ville, Ky.	Mem- phis, Tenn.	Mo- bile, Ala.	Nor- folk, Va.	Dal- las, Texas	Den- ver, Colo.	Hous- ton, Texas	New Or- leans, La.	Los Ange- les, Calif.	Phoe- nix, Ariz.	Port- land, Ore.	Salt Lake City, Utah	San Fran- cisco, Calif.
Fruit Cocktail (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Peaches (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A
Pears (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Pineapple (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Grapefruit Juice (B)	B	B	C	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Orange Juice (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Orange-Grapefruit Juice (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Pineapple Juice (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A
Beans, Green and Wax (U)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Corn (A)	B	B	A	B	B	B	B	B	A	A	B	B	A	A
Peas (B)	B	C	A	E	B	B	B	E	A	E	B	B	E	B
Tomatoes (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A
Tomato Juice (A)	B	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Frozen Apricots (U)	A	A	A	B	A	A	B	B	A	B	B	B	B	B
Peaches (A)	B	A	B	A	A	A	B	B	A	B	B	B	B	B
Strawberries (A)	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	E	A	B	B	B	B	B
Beans, Lima (A)	A	A	A	A	E	B	A	A	A	B	A	B	B	B
Beans, Snap (B)	B	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Corn, Cut (U)	B	E	B	B	A	B	B	B	A	B	B	B	B	B
Peas (U)	B	C	D	D	D	E	A	B	A	B	B	B	B	B
Spinach (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Dried Prunes (U)	B	A	B	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	D	E.	B	D
Raisins (A)	A	A	E	D	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	B	B	A
Dry Beans (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	E	A	A	A	A	A	A
Oranges (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Potatoes, Irish (B)	B	C	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Cabbage (B)	B	C	B	E	B	B	B	E	E	D	D	B	D	D

Products	Jack- son- ville, Fla.	Louis- ville, Ky.	Mem- phis, Tenn.	Mo- bile, Ala.	Nor- folk, Va.	Dal- las, Texas	Den- ver, Colo.	Hous- ton, Texas	New Orle- ans, La.	Los Ange- les, Calif.	Phoe- nix, Ariz.	Port- land, Ore.	Salt Lake City, Utah	San Fran- cisco, Calif.
Beef: Steak (B)	B	B	C	B	B	B	B	C	A	B	B	B	B	B
Roasts (B)	B	B	C	B	B	B	B	C	A	B	B	B	B	B
Hamburger (B)	B	B	C	B	B	B	B	C	A	B	B	B	B	B
Veal: Steaks, Chops & Roasts (B)	B	B	C	B	B	B	B	C	A	B	B	B	B	B
Lamb: Steaks, Chops & Roasts (B)	B	B	C	B	B	B	B	C	A	B	B	B	B	B
Pork: Chops, Loin, & Roasts (U)	B	B	C	B	B	B	B	C	A	B	B	B	B	B
Ham & Shoulder, Fresh (U)	B	B	C	B	B	B	B	C	A	B	B	B	B	B
Ham & Shoulder, Cured (A)	B	B	C	B	B	B	B	C	A	B	B	B	B	B
Salted Fat Cuts (A)	B	B	C	B	B	B	B	C	A	B	B	B	B	B
Bacon (A)	B	B	C	B	B	B	B	C	A	B	B	B	B	B
Cold Cuts, Bologna, etc. (B)	B	B	C	B	B	B	B	C	A	B	B	B	B	B
Canned Meats (A)	B	B	C	B	B	B	B	C	A	B	B	B	B	B
Fish, Fresh and Frozen (B)	B	B	C	B	B	B	B	C	A	B	B	B	B	B
Canned: Salmon (A)	B	B	C	B	B	B	B	C	A	B	B	B	B	B
Tuna (A)	B	B	C	B	B	B	B	C	A	B	B	B	B	B
Sardines (A)	B	B	C	B	B	B	B	C	A	B	B	B	B	B
Butter (B)	B	B	C	B	B	B	B	C	A	B	B	B	B	B
Cheese (All Types) (U)	B	B	C	B	B	B	B	C	A	B	B	B	B	B
Evaporated Milk (U)	B	B	C	B	B	B	B	C	A	B	B	B	B	B
Margarine (A)	B	B	C	B	B	B	B	C	A	B	B	B	B	B
Lard (A)	B	B	C	B	B	B	B	C	A	B	B	B	B	B
Shortening (A)	B	B	C	B	B	B	B	C	A	B	B	B	B	B
Salad Oils (A)	B	B	C	B	B	B	B	C	A	B	B	B	B	B
For Laundry Soap (A)	B	B	C	B	B	B	B	C	A	B	B	B	B	B
Flakes & Granules (A)	B	B	C	B	B	B	B	C	A	B	B	B	B	B
Washing Powder (A)	B	B	C	B	B	B	B	C	A	B	B	B	B	B
Sugar (U)	B	B	C	B	B	B	B	C	A	B	B	B	B	B
Eggs, Shell (B)	B	B	C	B	B	B	B	C	A	B	B	B	B	B
Chicken (B)	B	B	C	B	B	B	B	C	A	B	B	B	B	B
Rice (A)	B	B	C	B	B	B	B	C	A	B	B	B	B	B
Corn Meal (A)	B	B	C	B	B	B	B	C	A	B	B	B	B	B
Wheat Flour (U)	B	B	C	B	B	B	B	C	A	B	B	B	B	B
Bread (B)	B	B	C	B	B	B	B	C	A	B	B	B	B	B

